

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BUDAPE 03972 151632Z  
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W  
-----000267 151635Z /53  
O 151435Z NOV 77  
FM AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9898

C O N F I D E N T I A L BUDAPEST 3972

EXDIS

E.O.11652: XGDS  
TAGS: PGOV HU US  
SUBJECT: CROWN OF ST STEPHEN

REF: (A) STATE 6163 (B) BUDAPEST 3905

1. WE HOPE TO SATISFY FULLY CONGRESSMAN ZABLOCKI'S DESIRE THAT THE RELIGIOUS ASPECT OF THE CROWN BE RESPECTED. HOWEVER, I THINK IT WOULD BE A MISTAKE TO SUGGEST TO GOH THAT IT ARRANGE, OR REQUEST THE CHURCHES TO ARRANGE, RELIGIOUS SERVICES INVOLVING THE CROWN.

2. I APPRECIATE THE SENTIMENT WHICH EXISTS AMONG HUNGARIAN-AMERICANS FOR ASSOCIATING THE HUNGARIAN CHURCHES WITH THE CROWN'S RETURN. AS DEPARTMENT IS AWARE, THIS WAS PURPOSE OF INCLUDING CATHOLIC, PROTESTANT, AND JEWISH LEADERS IN RETURN CEREMONY. ADDITIONALLY, I DISCUSSED WITH AMBASSADOR BARTHA TODAY THE REACTION IN THE U.S. AND HUNGARY TO THE CROWN'S RETURN. BARTHA TOLD ME THAT THE GOH WAS CONSCIOUS OF THE NEED TO MAKE GESTURES TO THE HUNGARIAN-AMERICAN COMMUNITY AND TO TAKE INTO ACCOUNT THE DESIRABILITY OF GIVING SIGNIFICANT ATTENTION TO THE RELIGIOUS ASPECT INVOLVED IN THE RETURN OF THE CROWN.

3. GOH HAS ALREADY MADE IT CLEAR THAT ALL HUNGARIAN-  
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AMERICANS MAY COME TO SEE CROWN. THE HSWP HAS AGREED TO REMAIN IN BACKGROUND. NOW WE MAY ALSO HOPE, ON THE BASIS OF BARTHA'S REMARKS, THAT GOH WILL MAKE FURTHER GESTURE.

4. I DO NOT WISH TO REHASH POINTS MADE IN REFTTEL (B), MOST OF WHICH ARGUE AGAINST REQUESTING SPECIAL RELI-

GIOUS SERVICES AS MUCH AS REQUESTING DISPLAY OF THE CROWN IN A RELIGIOUS SETTING. WE SHOULD, HOWEVER, KEEP IN MIND THAT CROWN IS CONSIDERED A NATIONAL MORE THAN A RELIGIOUS SYMBOL. I BELIEVE THERE IS NO DIFFERENCE OF OPINION AMONG HUNGARIAN GOVERNMENT, PEOPLE AND CHURCHES ON THIS POINT.

5. GOH HAS ASSURED US THAT CARDINAL LEKAI WILL BE INVITED TO PARTICIPATE IN THE CROWN'S RETURN. IN VIEW OF THAT FACT AND OTHER CONSIDERATIONS MENTIONED ABOVE, I HOPE WE CAN PROCEED ALONG PRESENT LINES. KAISER

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NNN

## Message Attributes

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**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
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**TAGS:** PGOV, SCUL, HU, US  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
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